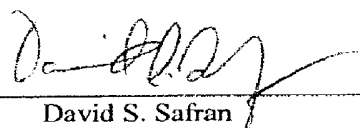


REMARKS

By the above amendments, allowable claims 3 & 8 have been rewritten in independent but otherwise unchanged form. Furthermore, claim 1 & 5 have been amended based on the Examiner's comments in paragraph 9 of his February 11th Office Action. In particular, in noting why the claims did not distinguish the present invention from the Japanese reference, the Examiner stated that the "current claims do not claim that the transverse plates are extended from one longitudinal plate to the other longitudinal plate." Accordingly, the independent claims have been amended above to positively state that "the transverse plates are extended from one longitudinal plate to the other longitudinal plate," so that further reliance upon the Japanese reference is no longer appropriate that the rejection based thereon should now be withdrawn, and the previously rejected claims allowed.

While the present application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, should the Examiner find some issue to remain unresolved, or should any new issues arise, which could be eliminated through discussions with Applicants' representative, then the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone in order that the further prosecution of this application can thereby be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
David S. Safran
Registration No. 27,997

NIXON PEABODY LLP
Suite 900
401 9th Street, N.W.
Washington D.C. 20004

Telephone: (703) 827-8094

DSS:kmm

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